[For information pertaining to literary devices and conventions, abbreviations and explanations of numerations used by the author, see 6: Spate AW1 India, category 116, pp. xxi-xxiii, and xxv.]

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mountain chains. Later I had the management of the Forest Department. Lastly I had the position of Governor of Ladákh, from which I retired for the sake of again seeing England, after spending ten years in the service of the Maharaja.

I did not leave the Maharaja, his Court, and the people, without many regrets. Each race, as I became acquainted with them, excited in me a great interest, and has left a strong wish for their welfare. In the Court I formed friendships with some whose co-operation in difficult circumstances will always be remembered by me. Of my master, the Maharaja, I will only venture to say that from him, in what might have been for me an anomalous position, I received a general consideration, dictated by goodwill and by forbearance, which, without counting many special acts of kindness that he would not wish to see acknowledged here, deserve and have from me a gratitude that I am glad have an opportunity of publicly expressing.

A few words must follow as to the plan on which this book is written.

I have not given a narrative of any of my journeys, but have taken each tract in succession, and described the physical and other characteristics of it. Besides this, I have given an account of some of the lines of march that join the several tracts; this by way of introduction to them or to show how they are physically separated yet connected by practicable lines of communication.

I begin with the part next to the plain of the Panjáb, the region of the Outer Hills. One chapter treats of their physical aspects, another treats of their inhabitants generally, a third gives a description of Jummoo, the chief place in the Outer Hills, and the capital of the whole country, and of the Court, whose seat is at Jummoo, while a fourth gives notes on certain other places in the same hills.

Next, in Chapter VI., we visit the region of the Middle Mountains, certain portions of them being in some detail described. The subordinate headings will show in what order the various localities are treated of, and that an account of the people who live there also finds a place.

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In Chapter VII. is described the march from Jammoo to Kashmir. Thus we are introduced to that country, to which Chapters VIII., IX., and X. are devoted. 128

Then, in like fashion, the country along the line of march from Kashmir to Leh in Ladákh is described, and we are thus brought into the great tract at the back of the Snowy Range. The account of Ladákh is begun by a chapter (XII.) on the inhabitants; then follows a somewhat detailed description of the different parts of that country, the Chapters XIII., XIV., and XV. being allotted separately for the lower valleys, the higher valleys, and the plateaus.

Baltistán comes next; it is described in Chapter XVI., where the sub-headings will show the course that the description takes.

For the less-known country of Dárdistán there are the four Chapters XVII. to XX.

Thus far the account has gone according to locality. There next comes a chapter on a subject which it seemed best to treat by itself. The few remarks I find myself able to make on the very interesting subject of the languages will be found in Chapter XXI.

The last chapter is one in explanation of the maps and sections. Since I reckon on the reader making use of these on his way through the text, even when they are not specially referred to, it would not be amiss if he were to become acquainted with them by either reading this chapter first of all, or by consulting it on first referring to each of the maps or sections. It will be found to give both a description of each map, isometric view, or section, and also a short summary of some of the various subjects which are treated in a more detailed way in the body of the book.

Though such a plan for the work depends not at all on the order of my journeys, it may be well here to note in what years I visited certain portions of the country, since some of that which passed under my observation may have been true only for that time. Ladákh I saw in the years 1862 (Drás, Kargil, and Suru only), 1869, 1871, and (January) 1872. Baltistán I visited in 1863, and again in 1870; Astor and Gilgit in 1870. For other parts it is impossible to particularise; any time between the years 1862 and 1872 I may have visited them. 114